



Standards & Assessment UPDATE

California Department of Education
Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

May 2007

Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program

California Modified Assessment

At the March 7, 2007, State Board of Education (SBE) meeting, the California Department of Education (CDE) submitted the California Modified Assessment (CMA) blueprints for approval; however, the SBE did not take action. Instead, the SBE directed the staff and the CMA test contractor to conduct focus groups with stakeholders and to make a recommendation regarding criteria and guidance to determine the student population appropriate for the CMA.

At the April 17, 2007, meeting, the SBE unanimously passed a motion to conditionally approve the CMA blueprints. In April, the U.S. Department of Education released final federal regulations for modified achievement standards.

At the May 9, 2007, meeting, the SBE approved the CDE proposed CMA blueprints. For additional information on the CMA blueprints, please refer to the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/documents/may07item06.doc>.

California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)

Title 5 California Code of Regulations Amendments

In March 2007, the SBE approved the Initial Statement of Reasons, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and

the commencement of the regulatory process for amendments proposed to the Title 5 regulations for the CAHSEE Program. The 45-day public comment period commenced on March 23, 2007. The comments received during the 45-day public comment period pertained primarily to the proposed fee for ordering excessive test materials.

At its May 9, 2007, meeting, the SBE approved the CDE's recommendations to:

- Modify the definition of "excessive materials" to read, "the difference between the sum of the number of tests scored and 80 percent of the tests ordered by the school district for the entire school year. The difference must be greater than 100 to be 'excessive materials.'"
- Approve all proposed amendments to the regulations.
- Direct that the proposed amendments be circulated for a 15-day public comment period in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.
- The CDE shall complete the rulemaking package and submit the amended regulations of the Office of Administrative Law for approval if no relevant comments to the revisions are received during the 15-day public comment period.

- The CDE shall place the amended regulations on the SBE's July 2007 agenda for action following consideration of the comments received if any relevant comments to the revisions are received during the 15-day public comment period.

The above revisions required that the proposed regulations be released for a 15 day comment period ending May 25, 2007.

For additional information regarding the Amendments to Title 5 *California Code of Regulations*, please refer to the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/documents/may07item05.doc>.

Exemption for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Senate Bill 267, the CDE reviewed proposed courses of action and conducted various analyses to better inform the State Superintendent of Public Instruction's (SSPI) and the SBE's consideration of various courses of action to adopt regarding pupils with disabilities who have met all other state and local graduation requirements, but who are unable to satisfy the CAHSEE requirement or obtain a waiver of the requirement under *Education Code* Section 60851(c).

Based on staff review and comments from stakeholders, the SSPI proposed recommendations to the SBE at its May 2007 meeting. The SBE approved the recommendations and the SBE will submit the recommendations to the legislature for their consideration. The recommendations are summarized below.

- The school principal must submit a request to waive the CAHSEE requirement within 60 days of receipt of student score report.
 - Current law does not mandate a time frame within which the principal must request the waiver.
 - Current law requires that the parent file the waiver request, this changes the responsibility to the school principal.

- The school principal must submit the waiver request to the district superintendent or designee.

- Current law requires that the waiver be submitted to the local school board.

- The district superintendent must grant the waiver if all requirements are met.

- Current law allows the local school board discretion in whether to grant the waiver.

- Requirements for the student to receive a modification waiver do not substantially change from current law.

- If the district superintendent denies the waiver request, the district must submit an appeal to the state board on behalf of the student.

- Current law does not provide an appeal provision.

For additional information on the recommended course of action, please refer to Item 4 on the CDE Web site at <http://www.ced.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/agenda0507.asp>.

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) Peer Review

CDE contracted with Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO) to conduct the independent, alignment study of the California Standards Tests (CSTs) and California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA) as well as develop performance level descriptors for the CSTs and CAHSEE. California teachers and curriculum specialists participated in workshops in late November and early December to conduct this work. At its November 8, 2006, meeting, the SBE approved policy definitions to help guide the development of the performance level descriptors (PLDs).

In April 2007, the CDE submitted an SBE item, including the executive summary of the HumRRO

report titled *Development of Performance Level Descriptors for the California Standards Tests (CSTs) and the High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)* and recommended the approval of the proposed PLDs. The SBE took no action at the April meeting.

At the May 2007 SBE meeting, the SBE approved the PLDs proposed by the SBE staff for submission to the U.S. Department of Education so as to be in compliance with No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

For additional information on the NCLB peer review, please refer to Item 9 on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/documents/may07item09.doc>.

More information...

For more information about any of the mentioned SBE items, access the SBE agenda on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/agenda0307.asp>.